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Editor's Perspective

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Editor's Perspective

1893–1908	Charles Aldrich
1908–1937	Edgar Harlan
1987–2020	Marvin Bergman

AFTER 33 YEARS as editor of the *Annals of Iowa*, I have decided that, after a term that exceeds even the long, notable tenures of the first two editors of the journal's third series, it's time to set aside my red pen and my computer mouse and turn the journal over to other hands. It's been a good run.

I'm proud of what the journal has accomplished in these years, building on the efforts of my two immediate predecessors, Judith Gildner and Christie Dailey, who largely transformed the journal from what I have called an antiquarian publication into a scholarly journal – but one that's accessible to committed lay readers. In particular, I take pride that the journal has brought some new voices into Iowa history, with many articles during my tenure focusing on the history of women, working-class people, and African Americans (and, to a lesser extent, Mexican Americans), while others continued to give attention to Iowa's agricultural and political history and a wide range of other topics.

I could not have succeeded in my role without a strong supporting cast. I'm grateful for the cooperation and skills of a wide range of authors, but also for the many external (and internal) reviewers who advised me and those authors on ways to improve their articles. I'm especially grateful to Rebecca Conard, Tom Morain, Bill Pratt, Pamela Riney-Kehrberg, Ginalie Swaim, and the late Dorothy Schwieder for invaluable advice and support over the years. Noteworthy, too, are the hundreds of book reviewers who have contributed to the section of the journal that many readers value most highly. I also appreciate the freedom that administrators of the State Historical Society of Iowa have given me to define success for the journal in my own terms. Special appreciation goes to Christie Dailey for the supportive environment she created in my early years and to Ginalie Swaim who proved

to be a longtime valued colleague, a wise mentor on all things editorial, and a treasured friend. Others within the organization have also provided crucial support and assistance, especially Mary Bennett, Becki Plunkett, and Charles Scott. Finally, of course, there are all of you subscribers and other readers of the journal, without whom this whole exercise would be pointless.

I'm pleased to announce the new editor for the journal, Andrew Klumpp, who promises to be a more than worthy successor. Andrew will receive his Ph.D. in U.S. religious history from Southern Methodist University this May, and he brings a range of editorial experience. He is a seventh-generation Iowan and a passionate advocate for the value of the history of Iowa and the Midwest. I welcome Andrew to the position and hope you will, too.

—Marvin Bergman, editor

CHANGE is often difficult to recognize as it is happening. It usually takes some time—and some historical perspective—to identify a turning point. However, this edition of the *Annals of Iowa* clearly marks the end of an era and the beginning of another. Editor Marvin Bergman is signing off after 33 years of dedicated service. This is his last edition, but his influence on the *Annals* will last for many more years and editions to come.

Marv recruited writers, gathered stories, checked facts, and quietly managed all the other details to ensure that a fresh copy of this journal rolled off the press every three months since the late 1980s. Tidy stacks of Iowa stories now fill bookshelves across the state. That's no small feat, but it is also worth noting that Marv guided the *Annals* into the digital age and helped make back issues available, free of charge, for anyone with an internet connection on any part of the planet. The digital archive surpassed one million downloads in October 2019, just four years after its creation, with readers on six continents.

The publication's founders could not have imagined that kind of success when they printed the first edition in 1863. Likewise, they could not have hoped for an editor with more curiosity or a sharper eye for detail than Marv. On behalf of the State Historical

Society of Iowa, I would like to thank him for his diligent service and for leaving a legacy of preserving Iowa history for generations to come. We extend our best wishes to him as he begins his next chapter.

I would also like to thank you for reading the *Annals* and reaffirm our commitment to continue upholding the rigorous standards that you — and Marv — have come to expect from this journal. We look forward to beginning the new era of the *Annals of Iowa* and to sharing more Iowa history with you.

—Susan Kloewer, Administrator, State Historical Society of Iowa